

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

a customer depositing cash with a depository, the depository being independent of said customer such that the identity of said customer remains anonymous;

the depository converting said cash into electronic currency, setting up a numbered account and placing said electronic currency into said numbered account;

the depository issuing to the customer one or more anonymous and randomly-generated serial numbers corresponding to the account number; and

the customer submitting at least one serial number to the on-line merchant to purchase goods or services, said on-line merchant and said depository being unable to identify said customer during said purchase and;

the depository transferring an amount of said electronic currency corresponding to said at least one serial number to an account of said on-line merchant.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of said on-line merchant, upon receipt of said serial number submitted by said customer, transmits said serial number to a server of said depository for authentication.

6. (cancelled).

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further including the step of providing a computer readable form having said at least one serial number corresponding to the amount of funds deposited therewith disposed thereon.

8. (cancelled).

9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more serial numbers comprises information about said customer's age.